

§ 405.20

provide evidence on your claim are not required to be affiliated with the network or meet the qualifications that we establish.

(c) *National registry of vocational experts.* Vocational experts having the qualifications established by the Commissioner may be included in a registry that we will maintain. The registry will be maintained for and made available to State agencies.

(d) This section will no longer be effective on the same date as described in § 405.240(c) of this part unless the Commissioner decides that the Medical and Vocational Expert System should be continued and extends the sunset date as described in § 405.240(d) of this part by publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking and a final rule in the FEDERAL REGISTER before that date.

[71 FR 16446, Mar. 31, 2006, as amended at 73 FR 2415, Jan. 15, 2008]

§ 405.20 Good cause for extending deadlines.

(a) If you wish us to extend the deadline to request a review under § 405.210, a hearing under § 405.310, action by the Decision Review Board under § 405.427(a), or judicial review under §§ 405.501–.505, you must establish that there is good cause for missing the deadline. To establish good cause, you must show us that—

- (1) Our action misled you;
- (2) You had a physical, mental, educational, or linguistic limitation(s) that prevented you from filing a timely request; or
- (3) Some other unusual, unexpected, or unavoidable circumstance beyond your control prevented you from filing a timely request.

(b) Examples of circumstances that, if documented, may establish good cause include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) You were seriously ill, and your illness prevented you from contacting us in person, in writing, or through a friend, relative, or other person;
- (2) There was a death or serious illness in your immediate family;
- (3) Important records were destroyed or damaged by fire or other accidental cause;
- (4) You were trying very hard to find necessary information to support your

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claim but did not find the information within the stated time period;

(5) Within the time limit for requesting further review, you asked us for additional information explaining our action, and within 60 days of receiving the explanation, you requested a review;

(6) We gave you incorrect or incomplete information about when and how to request administrative review or to file a civil suit;

(7) You did not receive notice of the determination or decision; or

(8) You sent the request to another Government agency in good faith within the time limit, and the request did not reach us until after the time period had expired.

§ 405.25 Disqualification of disability adjudicators.

Adjudicators at all levels of the administrative review process recognize the need for fair and impartial consideration of the merits of your claim. Any adjudicator who has any personal or financial interest in the matter pending for determination or decision will withdraw from conducting any proceeding with respect to your disability claim. If the adjudicator so withdraws, we will assign your claim to another adjudicator for a determination or decision.

§ 405.30 Discrimination complaints.

At all levels of the administrative review process, we do not give inappropriate consideration to your race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, or nature of your impairment(s). If you believe that an adjudicator has improperly discriminated against you, you may file a discrimination complaint with us. You must file any such complaint within 180 days of the date upon which you became aware that you may have been discriminated against.

APPENDIX TO SUBPART A OF PART 405— CLAIMS THAT WILL BE HANDLED UNDER THE PROCEDURES IN THIS PART

(a) We will apply the procedures in this part to disability claims (as defined in § 405.5) filed in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut.